Alberta Treasury
Economic Bulletin

ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEKS OF JANUARY 24 TO FEBRUARY 4, 2000

	Reference Period	Month/Previous Month	Month'99/ Month'98	Comments
Retail Sales ($millions)	November			
Alberta	2,496	0.3%	6.3%	In November, Alberta retail sales rose by 0.3% from October. In the first eleven months of 1999, Alberta retail sales rose by 3.7%, compared to the same period last year. By comparison, national retail sales are up 5.4% so far this year. Alberta has the highest level of per capita retail sales among provinces.
Canada	22,008	0.6%	6.1%	
Canadian Composite Leading Index (1981=100)	December 219.6	0.5%	5.2%	The Canadian leading economic indicator has been rising since September 1997. The index rose by 0.5% in December with the main sources of growth being the continued strength in the TSE 300.
Rigs Drilling	January 378	6.2%	26.8%	The average number of rigs drilling in Alberta was 378 in January, up 26.8%, compared to January 1999. This is the highest level of rigs drilling since February 1998 (385).
Building Permits ($ millions)	December			
Alberta	406.3	-7.4%	n.a.	Building permits, an indicator of investment intentions, fell by 7.4% in Alberta in December. For the year as a whole, Alberta permits fell by 12.5%, led by a 19.8% decline in non-residential construction and a 6.2% decrease in residential construction.
Canada	3,504.9	9.4%	n.a.	